News Release

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PRELIMINARY TOBACCO REFERENDA RESULTS

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1998 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today preliminary results of referenda held in March among growers of various kinds of tobacco to determine marketing quotas and price support in effect for the 1998, 1999, and 2000 marketing years. A vote of at least two-thirds in favor is necessary to approve marketing quotas. If marketing quotas are in effect for a kind of tobacco, price support loans will be available with respect to such kind of tobacco.

Pennsylvania growers of cigar filler (type 41), Connecticut and Massachusetts growers of cigar binder (types 51 and 529, and growers of Maryland type tobacco(type 32) all voted against quotas for marketing years 1998, 1999, and 2000. Virginia growers of sun-cured (type 37) voted in favor of quotas. (See table on next page)

The results are:

STATE	YES	NO	TOTAL	PERCENT "YES"
Cig	gar Binder	Tobacco,	Types 51	and 52
Connecticut Massachusetts	2 1	37 80	39 81	5.0% 1.0%
Total	3	117	120	2.5%
	Cigar Fil	ler Tobac	co, Type	41
Pennsylvania	21	209	230	9.1%
	Maryland	d Tobacco	, Type 32	
Maryland Pennsylvania Virginia	68 30 5	264 330 1	332 360 6	20.5% 8.3% 83.3%
Total	103	595	698	14.8%
	Virginia	Sun-cure	d, Type 3	7
Virginia	58	2	60	96.7%

Further referendum information is available from Misty Jones, telephone (202) 720-0200, e-mail address mjones@wdc.fsa.usda.gov.

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